

**Abstract of the Invention**

Disclosed is a process for the production of esters. In particular, the process includes contacting an olefin or an ether with carbon monoxide and an acid  
5 composition comprising  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  to form a product composition, adding an alcohol to the product composition, and separating the  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  from the ester. The separated  $\text{BF}_3 \cdot 2\text{CH}_3\text{OH}$  may then be recycled to the reaction unit.